



Propane Watch

January 5, 1999

Energy Information Administration
Office of Oil & Gas

- U.S. inventories of propane tumbled nearly 4.5 million barrels (MMB) last week to an estimated 43.0 MMB as of week ended December 31, 1999. The sharp decline left U.S. inventories slightly below the normal range for this time of year. Regional declines in inventories continued heaviest in the Midwest and Gulf Coast regions, down 2.3 MMB and 1.5 MMB, respectively. East Coast inventories reported a seasonal 0.5 MMB decline last week. Regional inventories remain within their respective normal ranges except in the Gulf Coast region where inventories continue below the normal range.
- Despite warmer-than-normal weather throughout the entire United States during December 1999, U.S. inventories of propane recorded the largest stock draw for this month since December 1989. The December 1999 stock draw measured 12.7 MMB, compared with the December 1989 record draw that totaled 16.7 MMB. Colder temperatures during the last week of December, year-end tank topping, and apparent strong petrochemical feedstock demand contributed to the unexpectedly strong stock draw during December 1999.

Propane Stocks by Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts (PADD) I, II, and III (Thousand Barrels)

Districts	November 1998	December 1998	Week Ending				
			12/10/99	12/17/99	12/24/99	12/31/99	01/01/99
East Coast (PADD I)	5,628	5,069	5,834	5,663	5,333	4,822	5,201
Midwest (PADD II)	32,468	26,995	24,340	22,840	21,822	19,491	27,704
Gulf Coast (PADD III)	30,908	29,972	19,827	19,430	18,623	17,142	30,151
Total (PADD I-III)	69,004	62,036	50,001	47,933	45,778	41,455	63,056
U.S. Total	72,376	64,633	51,851	49,706	47,473	42,989	65,389

E=Estimated data.

Source: Energy Information Administration (EIA), Monthly Petroleum Supply Reporting System and Form EIA-807, "Propane Telephone Survey."

Propane Prices by Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts (PADD) I and II (Cents per Gallon)

District	Wholesale					Residential				
	11/01/99	11/15/99	12/06/99	12/20/99	12/21/98	11/01/99	11/15/99	12/06/99	12/20/99	12/21/98
East Coast (PADD I)	53.8	52.4	51.6	52.1	29.6	115.9	116.6	118.1	119.0	106.8
New England (PADD IX)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	118.9	120.0	121.3	122.1	111.9
Central Atlantic (PADD IY)	54.2	53.0	52.4	52.3	30.4	117.7	117.8	119.6	120.5	108.6
Lower Atlantic (PADD IZ)	53.3	51.7	50.7	51.9	28.3	108.7	110.6	111.4	112.5	97.9
Midwest (PADD II)	46.0	44.0	41.9	41.7	23.7	84.3	84.7	85.7	87.0	73.8
Average	48.1	46.2	44.4	44.4	25.1	97.8	98.4	99.6	100.7	88.0

NA=Not Available.

R=Revised.

Source: Wholesale propane prices are based on Oil Price Information Service. Residential propane prices are available from data supplied by 23 State Energy Offices from October through March on a semi-monthly basis.

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